



**State of New
Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

November 2015

Table of Contents

Certification	Page 2
Data	Page 2
Educator Effectiveness	Page 4
Grants and Requests For Proposals (RFP)	Page 4
Hearings	Page 5
Innovations/Initiatives	Page 6
Special Education	Page 7
Technical Assistance Advisory	Page 7
Professional Development	Page 7
Department Staff Updates	Page 8
Special Recognition	Page 8
Resources	Page 9
Other	
• Awards	Page 9
• Scholarships	Page 11
• Contests	Page 11
• Misc.	Page 12

CERTIFICATION

A. Elementary Education Endorsement changes

Beginning this year, candidates for Elementary Education K-8 will be required to have an academic concentration in one of the following content areas: Math, English Language Arts, Science or Social Studies. In addition, they will have to pass the Middle School content area Praxis II in that subject. Without a subject area concentration, candidates will receive the K-6 grade level endorsement.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-4196, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

B. Employment Reporting

All educators employed with New Hampshire districts need to have their employment status and work assignment updated every year through the i4see course submission. This includes all certified SAU office staff, such as the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Business Administrator. The employment information needs to be updated to facilitate the online renewal process, IPDP uploads, as well as other reports that use EIS as the data source. The Bureau of Credentialing is relying on districts to enter the data. For technical issues with the i4see uploads please contact i4see.help@doe.nh.gov.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-4196, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

C. HQT Data in the Educator Information System

The classes which are taught by teachers who are Not-HQT in that subject area (2014-15) will be included in counts sent to the US Department of Education. Some districts still need to work on cleaning up the 2014-2015 data for federal reporting. It is important to check the report in EIS and determine why teachers are not verified as HQT for all of the core content classes they teach. Click on the yellow star at the top of the screen in EIS to see the not-HQT classes list. Thank you to the people who've been diligent about monitoring these lists. If there are problems, please email the educator ID(s) to Ginny.

Contact for HQT: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-4196, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. Fall Reports

These reports should be entered into the ESS system (using the myNHDOE Single Sign On System), certified, and then printed, signed, and forwarded to Data Management. Reminder, they **were due by October 15, 2015**.

- Class and Staffing Form (A 12B)
- Central Office Personnel (A 12D)
- Teacher Attainment and Average Salary (A 12F)

The District Level Home Schooled Count (A 12E) does not require certification. Please be sure to enter your best estimate for home schooled students in your district(s).

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831 or Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

B. i4see Reporting**a. BOY (Beginning of Year)**

As soon as the BOY (Beginning of Year) file has been certified, and the F&R students have been “Batch Verified” on the i4see workbench, please sign and send to the Bureau of Data Management the report *Public Fall Enrollment Sign Off (including F&R)*. Any questions or problems with this report should be sent to i4see.help@doe.nh.gov.

The enrollment data from the BOY will be used in determining your estimated 2015-16 ADM for the FY2016-17 Estimated Adequacy Aid.

Just a reminder that Course Submissions and Student Class Submissions were due on October 15. These should represent the courses your teachers are teaching and the students enrolled in those courses.

b. Finishing up 2014-2015 EOY

If you have not already done so, Superintendents should print, sign and send the two final ADM reports: “ADM Report” and “EOY Determination Sign Off” from the i4see Workbench.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831 or Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

C. PerformancePLUS Training Sessions for November and December

The NH DOE Data Coach Support Team has scheduled several training sessions in a variety of formats to meet the needs of PerformancePLUS users. See the schedule below for training at the DOE, webinars, and Q+A webinars sessions.

a. Q+A Webinars for PerformancePLUS Users

Please join us for any or all sessions -- Wednesdays in November and December (11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16) from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. These webinars are for you to call in with your questions and receive immediate support from the data coaches. These sessions will be an open hour for questions and answers about PerformancePLUS. Please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/853727168694455041>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

b. Webinar Training Session - SBAC Pushed Reports

Join us to learn more about the Smarter Balanced reports that have been PUSHED to your PerformancePLUS account. Seven different types of reports were created and PUSHED (*sent*) to you to help you analyze your Smarter Balanced Assessment results. Join us and we'll help you understand Smarter Balanced reporting, and analyze the information to find areas of strength and challenge in your school or district. This webinar is being held on Monday, November 16th from 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8449570208321127426>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

c. Webinar Training Session - Using Filters in PerformancePLUS

Have you ever been frustrated in PerformancePLUS because you were unable to narrow down your reports to specific students you want to see? Join us as we show

you how to use the filters and options that will focus your reporting. We will work through common mistakes, and show you how to use the filters to answer specific questions about specific students. This webinar is being held on Monday, December 14th from 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6508332951459413506>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, Irene.koffink@doe.nh.gov

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

A. Educator Evaluation System Tool

The NH DOE has developed a tool for schools to schedule, administer and help ensure effective evaluations of teachers and administrators. This web application allows a principal to schedule the evaluations of teachers and capture artifacts or indicators of effectiveness throughout the evaluation process – e.g. classroom observation or walkthrough, peer review, etc. Various reports are available to administrators and the system allows for the exchange of e-mail documents between educator and evaluator. The Educator Evaluation System is customizable and is available, at no cost, to all schools and districts in NH. Several school districts are currently piloting this software and the initial feedback has been very positive.

Contact: Carol Angowski, (603) 271-3455, Carol.Angowski@doe.nh.gov

B. Network for Transforming Educator Preparation (NTEP)

New Hampshire has joined a network dedicated to improving educator preparation and ensuring all teachers are ready to teach on Day One. The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) created the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation (NTEP) to support states ready to take action in three key policy areas to ensure all educators are ready on the first day of their career to prepare our students for college, work and life.

Contact: Nicole Heimarck, (603) 271-2634, Nicole.Heimarck@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. New Hampshire Vision 2.0: Strategic Design, Development and Implementation Services

The New Hampshire Department of Education has released *NH Vision 2.0: New Hampshire Goes First - A Blueprint to Scale Competency-based Education across a PreK-20 System*, a new multimedia publication that builds on the 2014 New Hampshire Story of Transformation. We are now seeking organizations to support our implementation of this learning system by providing strategic design services around the key priority areas.
Proposals Deadline: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 11, 2015.

Contact: Mary Earick, (603) 271-6052, Mary.Earick@doe.nh.gov

B. Career and Technical Education Teacher Education Program Development

The New Hampshire Department of Education requests proposals from NH Career & Technical Education (CTE) centers in order to increase the number, quality, and sustainability of teacher education programs preparing NH's next generation of teachers. This funding opportunity is intended to provide successful applicants with the necessary resources to:

1. develop, integrate and improve teacher education programs; and
2. provide a pipeline of quality teacher candidates to meet NH's labor market

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals is 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2015.

Contact: Courtney Ritchings, (603) 573-0166, Courtney.Ritchings@doe.nh.gov

C. Career and Technical Student Organizations Support Grants

The New Hampshire Department of Education requests proposals from NH career and technical student organizations (CTSOs), as recognized by the National Coordinating Council for Career and Technical Student Organizations, to continue to support and develop the CTSOs available to NH's students. This funding opportunity is intended to provide successful applicants with the necessary resources to:

1. develop and improve the CTSOs in the state; and
2. provide students with another means of developing leadership skills

Applications are due on or before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2015.

Contact: Jennifer Kiley, (603) 573-0600, Jennifer.Kiley@doe.nh.gov

D. Vocational Rehabilitation Services

New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation (NHVR) is currently seeking proposals from all interested parties such as community rehabilitation programs, school districts, employers, community-based organizations, post-secondary institutions, faith-based organizations, single agency, or agency/organization consortiums, non-profits and others, who have experience working with students with disabilities who are transitioning to the workforce or post-secondary education. At the heart of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the encouragement of creative and collaborative efforts to affect the changes necessary that will successfully implement WIOA. A specific plan for collaboration with employers will be a significant component of successful responses to this RFP. Applications are due on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Contact: Kevin Stevenson, (603) 271.5024, Kevin.Stevenson@doe.nh.gov

HEARINGS

Ed 505.07 and Ed 610.02 (Professional Education Requirements)

A public hearing will be held November 18, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. Deadline for written comment will be December 3, 2015. The proposed change to the administrative rules is to add an educator code of ethics through reference to the NASDTEC Model Code of Educator Ethics (MCEE). See http://www.nasdtec.net/default.asp?page=MCEE_DOCS for information on the MCEE.

See www.education.nh.gov/legislation/adopt_amend_repeal.htm for information on Administrative Rulemaking for the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Contact: Virginia Clifford, (603) 271-4196, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. NH Vision 2.0

The New Hampshire Department of Education has released *NH Vision 2.0: New Hampshire Goes First - A Blueprint to Scale Competency-based Education across a PreK-20 System*, a new multimedia publication that builds on the 2014 New Hampshire Story of Transformation. While last year's publication provided a lens into the successes and struggles to transform an entire education system from the bottom up rather than the top down, in this new publication the NHDOE has developed an action-oriented blueprint for how it is planning to implement and scale the state's educational efforts over the coming years. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/vision.htm.

Contact: Paul Leather, (603) 271-3801, Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov

B. Girls Technology Day 2016

Preregistration is now available for Girls Technology Day 2016. These events provide New Hampshire's young women, in grades 9 & 10, with opportunities to participate in hands on learning that explores STEM career fields. This year there are four locations and dates to choose from:

- Tuesday, March 15 @ NHTI in Concord
- Wednesday, March 16 @ Great Bay Community College in Portsmouth
- Thursday, March 17 @ UNH Durham
- Friday, March 18 @ Manchester Community College in Manchester

To preregister students for an event, please go to www.nhgirlstechnologyday.com. Preregistering allows you to state your preference for a location and date and tells us how many students you will be bringing. We will send information at a later date to register for individual workshops. New this year, students at the first three events can participate in a "Makers Make the World a Better Place" contest. More information can be found on the Web site, under the students tab.

Contact: Jennifer Kiley, (603) 573-0600, Jennifer.Kiley@doe.nh.gov or
Courtney Ritchings, (603) 573-0166, Courtney.Ritchings@doe.nh.gov

C. What's So Cool About Manufacturing? Video Contest

In order to engage New Hampshire students and to encourage them to learn about exciting and interesting career opportunities in advanced manufacturing, Governor Hassan and Department of Resources and Economic Development Commissioner Jeffrey Rose are launching the second annual What's So Cool About Manufacturing? video contest. Through partnering participating schools and local manufacturers to produce a video focused on career opportunities in manufacturing, the What's So Cool About Manufacturing? video contest is designed to introduce middle school students to careers of the future in advanced manufacturing and what they can do to prepare for them. Students and advisors can work

with local manufacturers on their video starting now through the February 2 project deadline. Teachers interested in participating can get more information on partnering with a local manufacturer, as well as video contest rules, at www.nheconomy.com/videocontest or by contacting Christopher Way, Deputy Director, Division of Economic Development at Christopher.Way@dred.state.nh.us or (603) 271-2341.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS)

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education has scheduled trainings on the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS). The trainings will be held at the NH Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, Room 15.

- Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 9:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m. ~ CAT Aid Session
- Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ~ 402 Session

Contact: Terry Hersh, (603) 271-3775, Terry.Hersh@doe.nh.gov

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY

A. Student Data Privacy

On October 23rd the NH DOE issued a technical assistance advisory pertaining to the use of recordings in school classrooms. This advisory as well as previous advisories can be found on the Department's Web site at www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. CALM (Counseling on Access to Lethal Means)

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24 in New Hampshire and tenth cause of death for those of all ages. Preventing these suicides is a very complex puzzle that requires all of us to work collaboratively to complete the picture. One piece of that puzzle that has proven to be effective is to reduce access to lethal means – particularly firearms and medications. This workshop addresses why and how to do this. The workshop includes: powerpoint presentations regarding why CALM is important, a model videotaped counseling session, plus time for discussion and role plays. CALM is a 2-hour training that is free of charge and has two Continuing Education Units from the NH Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. This training is suited for guidance counselors, school nurses, athletic coaches, extracurricular advisors, anyone who may be in a position to talk with families when there may be concern of a child's well-being. If interested, please contact Elizabeth Fenner-Lukaitis, NH Bureau of Behavioral Health at (603) 271-5028 or ElizabethFL@dhhs.state.nh.us.

B. Media Literacy for Safe & Healthy Choices Curriculum Training

Registration is now open for NH educators seeking to prevent youth violence through media literacy education. This training is designed for upper elementary teachers and school professionals interested in implementing Media Literacy for Safe & Healthy Choices curricula in their schools. We also welcome parents, mentors or other youth serving professionals interested in bringing media literacy skills to the youth that they care for. This training will take

place Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Community Campus, Portsmouth, NH. To register or for more information please go to www.eventbrite.com/e/media-literacy-for-safe-healthy-choices-curriculum-training-tickets-18798716467?ref=enivtefor001&invite=ODQ5OTgxNi9tZWRpYUBtZWRpYXBvd2VyeW91dGgub3JnLzA%3D&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm_term=eventpage.

C. NHASCD Conference Series Re-imagining Education: Every Learner, Every Day

On January 8, 2016, NHASCD welcomes two outstanding presenters in the world of literacy. In the morning Dr. Lucy Calkins will present on "High Leverage Methods for Lifting the Level of Students' Reading" (for Grades 3 - 8). Lucy Calkins will present until 12:30. Then after lunch, we welcome award-winning author/illustrator Lita Judge who will speak on "Engaging Students to Become Creative Readers and Writers with Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts." This conference is taking place at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. To register or for more information go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/jan-8th-2016-nhascd-conf-with-presenters-lucy-calkins-lita-judge/invitation-6c0cb0afb95d452f9f24404be9aaf5ec.aspx>.

D. School Nursing Essentials and Beyond

School Nursing Essentials and Beyond is three one-day workshops presented by the New Hampshire School Nurses' Association in collaboration with the New Hampshire State Department of Education. You may register for one, two or three days (October 17th, November 14th, and March 12th). To register or for more information go to <https://nhsn3a18.wildapricot.org/event-1969527>. For questions contact NHSNA@comcast.net.

E. Tips, Tools, and Strategies for Successful Transition Planning

The New Hampshire Transition Community of Practice announces its 9th Annual Transition Summit, the only statewide conference for training, collaboration, networking, and information focused on post-secondary outcomes for students. Results from the last Summit showed attendees want tips, tools, and templates they can put into practice immediately. Therefore, all summit presentation this year will offer these elements. The Summit will take place on November 18th, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. To register or for more information go to www.iod.unh.edu/transitionsummit2015.

Contact: Amy Jenks, (603) 271-3842, Amy.Jenks@doe.nh.gov

DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATES

Commissioner of Education Virginia Barry has joined the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) 2014-2015 Board of Directors. CCSSO's Board of Directors manages the overall business affairs of the Council and is the governing body of the organization. The board is composed of the president, the president-elect, the past president, and six directors elected by CCSSO members.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Distinguished Early Childhood Special Educator

The NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is pleased to announce that Tammy Vittum of the Fall Mountain Regional School District is serving as the Distinguished

Early Childhood Special Educator for the 2015-2016 school year. In addition to being certified as a NH Early Childhood Special Educator, Tammy has been recognized as an Exceptional Needs Specialist through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. As a Distinguished Educator, Tammy will be working closely with the Bureau of Special Education, Office of Preschool Special Education, to promote improved outcomes for New Hampshire preschool children with disabilities. For more information on our work, please visit our Web site. http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/index.htm.

RESOURCES

A. Good and Cheap

Good and Cheap is a cookbook for people with very tight budgets. All the recipes are based off of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) daily allowance. Each recipe shows about how much it costs to make and how many it serves. Download the cookbook at <http://www.leannebrown.com>.

B. “Top 5” Actions Schools Can Take to Help Prevent Substance Misuse

The Prevention Taskforce of the NH Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery in collaboration with the NH Department of Education has recently released a white paper titled, *The Top 5: Actions Schools Can Take To Help Prevent and Reduce Youth Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use*. These recommendations are the result of a lengthy review of federal, state and local best practices, State level data, and community input. They build upon the ideas set forth in the 2013 State Plan: Collective Action-Collective Impact. For more information on Substance Abuse Prevention in Schools and to view the report, please visit: www.nhstudentwellness.org/prevention.

Contact: Kelly Untiet, (603) 271-2295, Kelly.Untiet@doe.nh.gov

OTHER

Fernand J. Prevost Mathematics Teaching Award

Nominees are being sought for the annual Fernand J. Prevost Mathematics Teaching Award. NH Teachers of Mathematics (NHTM) is presenting the award in recognition of the contribution that Ferd has made to the mathematics educators of New Hampshire during his thirty years as the state mathematics consultant. The award is being given to a beginning teacher in her/his first through fifth year who meets the following criteria which exemplify the characteristics which Ferd has brought to his teaching:

- commitment to good mathematics
- confidence that children can learn
- a spirit of self-reflection and professional curiosity
- caring and concern for colleagues
- a willingness to explore, to learn, and to grow as a teacher of mathematics
- a willingness to share mathematical and pedagogical activities with others.

The recipient will receive a plaque of achievement, a \$250 prize, and a one year membership to NHTM. The presentation of the award will be made at the NHTM Spring Conference. Nomination forms and applications can be found on the NHTM Web site at

www.nhmathteachers.org/page-1729170 or can be obtained by sending a request to Rich Andrusiak at randrusiak@ccsnh.edu. Nominations are due by December 15, 2015.

Green Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition award honors schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education, which incorporates STEM, civic skills and green career pathways. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/program/school_approval/g_ribbon_schools.htm. Deadline for applications is January 8, 2016.

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker, (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

The PAEMST program is pleased to announce that the 2015-2016 application period for K-6 grade mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers is now open. Please consider nominating a talented teacher or applying yourself. PAEMST is the highest honor the United States government bestows for K–12 mathematics and science teaching, honoring up to 108 teachers each year. Presidential awardees receive a certificate signed by the President, a trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The nomination deadline is April 1, 2016 and the application deadline is May 1, 2016. For more information or to nominate a teacher go to www.education.nh.gov/recognition/math_science.htm.

Contact: Donna Dubey, (603) 271-3759, Donna.Dubey@doe.nh.gov (mathematics)
Eric Feldborg, (603) 271-2079, Eric.Feldborg@doe.nh.gov (science)

Schools of Excellence

The “ED”ies committee was established to provide a process that honors exemplary practices and excellence at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels throughout the Granite State. The application process will help you and your school team engage in a collaborative and self-reflective dialogue focused solely on continuous improvement and excellence in education. The winning school at each level will receive state-wide recognition as the EDies School of Excellence, \$2,000, a school banner, and a beautifully engraved school bell signifying excellence in education. For more information go to www.edies.org/application-materials. Deadline to apply is December 4, 2015.

Special Education Teacher of the Year

This award was established to honor an outstanding special educator. The winner of this award will be honored at the EDies in June 2016. The winner will also be eligible to be considered for the international “CEC Special Educator of the Year.” Applications will be accepted until December 1, 2015. For more information contact Lois-Jean Stevens, Special Education Director, Prospect Mountain High School, (603) 875-3800 ext. 3144 or lstevens@pmhschool.com.

Leaders Save Lives Blood Drive Scholarship Opportunity

Leaders Save Lives is a scholarship opportunity for high school and college students. Students will gain a meaningful leadership and community service experience. In addition, they may become eligible to win a scholarship and earn a gift card. High school students can also earn

an automatic tier upgrade for the High School Leadership Program. Blood drives must be scheduled between December 15, 2015 and January 15, 2016. For more information go to http://www.redcrossblood.org/leaderssavelives?utm_source=realmagnet&utm_medium=email&utm_content=header_image&utm_campaign=BHQ_LSL_Donors25up_201508.

The National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) Scholarship

The NWFA Education & Research Foundation Wood Studies Scholarship is designed to promote the post-secondary study of forestry and related forestry sciences. Trees are a natural resource providing the raw materials that support the livelihood of those employed in the forestry industry, including members of the NWFA. This nonrenewable scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to a current high school senior who will study forestry, environmental science, or natural resources in an effort to advance and improve forestry practices for generations to come. The deadline is February 1, 2016. To apply or for more information go to www.nwfa.org/nwfa-wood-studies-scholarship.aspx.

Bananagrams Challenge 2016

The BANANAGRAMS Challenge provides students with an enjoyable and interactive way to develop language skills as they play and learn with words. BANANAGRAMS is a fast-paced competitive word-race game that requires no pencil, paper, board or waiting for turns. The Challenge is open to students in grades 4, 5, and 6 and is free to enter for any New England School. The BANANAGRAMS Challenge is limited to 500 schools – so register yours today. To register or for more information go to <https://bananagramschallenge.com>.

Guinness World Records Challenge

Students ages 7-12 will be challenged to describe a Guinness World Records title that they would like to set or break in the next 20 years by creating a song, poem, short essay, rap, poster, or video. The competition features great activities to incorporate in your language arts lesson of the day or to complete just for fun. Deadline for entries is December 1, 2015. For more information go to <http://futurerecords.guinnessworldrecords.com>.

Fire and Life Safety Poster Contest

The Department of Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal and the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society, believe that Fire Prevention and Life Safety should be a part of daily life throughout the year in every New Hampshire household. Third grade students are challenged to design a poster representing an important fire prevention & life safety message. This annual poster contest is open to all third grade students in the State of New Hampshire. Deadline for submissions is no later than February 26, 2016. For more information go to www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/special-operations/pub_ed/index.htm.

Make College Happen Challenge

Teens are asked to creatively describe how they plan to pay for college with a poem, video, photo, song, or essay. The Challenge is part of Plan for College, an online resource providing free step-by-step tools to demystify the college planning process for parents, teens, and their communities. Deadline to enter is December 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. For more information go to <http://makecollegehappenchallenge.com/contest>.

Drive Smart: No Distractions, No Excuses Digital Short Contest

To continue to drive home the dangers of distracted driving and using mobile devices behind the wheel, The Wireless Foundation and By Kids For Kids announce year two of the Drive

Smart: No Distractions, No Excuses Digital Short Contest. The Contest asks teens 13-18 to create a short video persuading other teens not to drive distracted. State winners will each be awarded \$100, and a national grand prize winner will be awarded \$5,000. The deadline for entries is December 15, 2015. To enter or learn more, visit www.drivesmartnow.com.

Project Dragonfly's Global Field Program

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2016 Earth Expeditions graduate courses that offer extraordinary experiences in 15 countries throughout the world. For more information go to http://earthexpeditions.miamioh.edu/15-16_news.

4th & 5th Grader Snowsports Passport

This season Ski NH downhill and cross country ski area members are offering one free lift ticket or trail pass to each member area via the 4th & 5th Grade Snowsports Passport. A portion of the sales will benefit Make-A-Wish New Hampshire. The Passport allows for 16 downhill options and 17 cross country options, making New Hampshire the perfect place for families to explore different ski areas this winter. For more information visit www.skinh.com/tickets-and-deals.

Join the 2016 JASON Argonaut Team!

JASON Learning is seeking a diverse, creative, and adventurous group of students and educators to venture into the field to conduct research with JASON scientists and engineers. As a JASON Argonaut you will embark on a life-changing journey, working side-by-side with scientists and engineers in the field. Student and Teacher Argonauts will spend anywhere from 3-10 days in the field during the summer or fall of 2016, depending on the expedition they are selected to participate in. Argonauts serve as ambassadors and role models for the JASON community, and may participate in speaking events related to the program before and after their field experience. JASON Learning, with generous support from the Argonaut Program's sponsors, covers expenses for all related lodging, food, programming, and equipment costs related to the Argonaut experience. Applications are due by January 15, 2016. For more information or to apply go to www.jason.org/argo2016.